REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of August 7, 2003, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over DE 2926549.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, Applicant has amended independent claim 2 to correct a typographical error. Claim 2 now recites an -- end face opening in the housing --. The gap between the protrusion and the opening is secure against ignition penetration in that it is enclosed by the wall of the housing 10 at the end face opening 18, and a wall of the protrusion 17a. The gap is clearly visible in Figure 2 of the application. Since the gap is completely surrounded, it is secure against ignition penetration.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the claim presently on file particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claim presently on file differs essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the reference. The Examiner argues that DE 2926549 discloses all of the features recited in claim 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As has previously been argued, the terminal box 11 of the reference only accommodates components which cannot be the cause of an explosion. Thus, there is absolutely no consideration in the reference for resisting explosion pressure in the terminal box 11. This is also the case with the cable connections 31. On page 10 of the German reference, the reference numeral 31 is referred to as "übliche kabledurchführung". This translates to "conventional cable passage". Applicant respectfully submits that conventional cable passages are not suited for resisting explosion pressure, nor do they provide any disclosure for a connection which resists explosion pressure, as in the presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, the soft sealing ring and the mounting of the cap 15 with the screw 33 all indicate to those skilled in the art that this device is not constructed to be explosion resistant.

The terminal box 11 of the reference is nothing more than a conventional terminal box which does not resist explosion pressure.

Furthermore, there is no disclosure in the reference of a gap formed between the protrusion of the cap, which extends into the end face opening, and a side wall of the opening so that the gap is secure against ignition penetration. There is no disclosure of a construction having a gap as in the presently claimed invention.

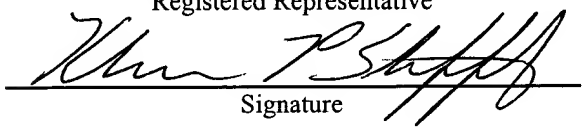
In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 7, 2003:

Klaus P. Stoffel

Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative

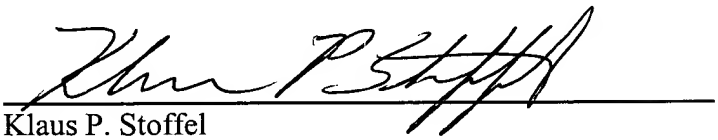


Signature

November 7, 2003

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Klaus P. Stoffel
Registration No.: 31,668
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700

KPS:sks